Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A conversion kit for reconfiguring a hay rake, said hay rake comprising a frame, two rake arms disposed on the frame, a plurality of rotating tined wheels disposed on said rake arms, each of the plurality of rotating tined wheels having a leading face and a trailing face, said conversion kit comprising:

a left boom comprising a first end and a second end, said first end configured to be attached to said frame in place of one of the rake arms and said second end providing an alternative point of attachment for one of the rake arms;

a right boom comprising a first end and a second end, said first end configured to be attached to said frame in place of one of the rake arms and said second end providing an alternative point of attachment for one of the rake arms; and

wherein said left and right booms ~~may be interposed~~ are interposable between said frame and rake arms such that when said left and right booms are interposed between said frame and rake

arms each of the plurality of rotating tined wheels is supported from its trailing face.

Claim 2 (original): The conversion kit of claim 1 wherein the left and right booms each further comprises a cantilevered arm, said cantilevered arm configured to be attached to a brace member to stabilize its respective boom, said brace member also being attached to said frame.

Claim 3 (original): The conversion kit of claim 2 wherein the brace member is selected from the group consisting of an elongated piece of metal, a rope, a nylon strap, a chain and a cable.

Claim 4 (original): The conversion kit of claim 1 wherein the left and the right booms each extend upwardly from the first end to an apex and then downwardly to the second end such that each boom passes over the rake arm attached to its second end when installed on said frame.

Claim 5 (original): The conversion kit of claim 4 wherein the left and right booms comprise tubular metal.

Claim 6 (original): The conversion kit of claim 5 wherein the left and right booms each further comprise a support brace disposed at the apex.

Claim 7 (original): The conversion kit of claim 5 wherein the left and right booms each further comprise a cantilevered arm, said cantilevered arm configured to be attached to a brace member to stabilize its respective boom, said brace member also being attached to said frame.

Claim 8 (original): The conversion kit of claim 7 wherein the brace member is selected from the group consisting of an elongated piece of metal, a rope, a nylon strap, a chain and a cable.

Claim 9 (original): The conversion kit of claim 5 wherein the first end of each of the booms comprises an extended portion whereby each of the booms is coupled to said frame when the extended portion is inserted into an housing on the frame.

Claim 10 (original): The conversion kit of claim 9 wherein the extended portion further comprises a flange whereby each of the booms is locked in place when the flange engages a locking plate coupled to said housing.

Claim 11 (original): The conversion kit of claim 10 wherein the locking plate is coupled to said housing by a pin.

Claim 12 (original): The conversion kit of claim 9 wherein the second end of each of the booms comprises a housing adapted to receive an extended portion of a rake arm.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The conversion kit of claim 12 wherein the housing further comprises a flange whereby a locking plate ~~may be used to secure~~ selectively secures the rake arm to the boom, said locking plate engaging the flange on the housing of the boom as well as a flange on the rake arm.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A conversion kit for reconfiguring a hay rake, said hay rake comprising a frame, two rake arms disposed on the frame, a plurality of rotating tined wheels disposed on said rake arms, each of the plurality of rotating tined wheels having a leading face and a trailing face, said conversion kit comprising:

a left boom comprising a first end and a second end, said first end configured to be attached to said frame in place of one of the rake arms and said second end providing an alternative point of attachment for one of the rake arms;

a right boom comprising a first end and a second end, said first end configured to be attached to said frame in place of one of the rake arms and said second end providing an alternative point of attachment for one of the rake arms; and

wherein said left and right booms ~~may be interposed~~ are interposable between said frame and rake arms such that when said left and right booms are interposed between said frame and rake arms each of the plurality of rotating tined wheels is supported from its trailing face and both the left and right booms pass over the rake arm attached to their second ends.

Claim 15 (original): The conversion kit of claim 14 wherein the left and right booms each further comprise a cantilevered arm having an attached end and a free end, said free end configured to be attached to a brace member to stabilize its respective boom, said brace member also being attached to said frame.

Claim 16 (original): The conversion kit of claim 15 wherein the brace member is selected from the group consisting of an elongated piece of metal, a rope, a nylon strap, a chain and a cable.

Claim 17 (original): The conversion kit of claim 14 wherein the frame further comprises a left and a right housing, said housings each having a hollow interior, said first ends of said left and right booms further comprising an extended portion, said left and right housings each receiving the extended portion of the left and right booms, respectively, when said booms are removably attached to said frame.

Claim 18 (original): The conversion kit of claim 17 wherein the extended portion of the left and the right booms each further comprises a flange, a locking plate coupled to said left or right housings engaging said flange to hold its respective boom in place.

Claim 19 (original): The conversion kit of claim 18 wherein the second ends of the left and the right booms further comprises a housing for receiving an extended portion of one of the rake arms.

Claim 20 (original): The conversion kit of claim 14 wherein said left and right booms comprise tubular metal.

Claim 21 (original): The conversion kit of claim 20 wherein the left and the right booms each extend upwardly from the

first end to an apex and then downwardly to the second end such that the left and the right booms pass over the rake arm attached to their second ends when installed on said frame.

Claim 22 (original): The conversion kit of claim 21 wherein the left and the right booms each further comprise a support brace disposed at the apex.

Claim 23 (original): The conversion kit of claim 21 wherein the left and the right booms each further comprises a cantilevered arm having an attached end and a free end, said free ends of the cantilevered arms being attached to a chain, said chain also attached to said frame through an eyelet.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A conversion kit for reconfiguring a hay rake, said hay rake comprising a frame, two rake arms disposed on the frame, a plurality of rotating tined wheels disposed on said rake arms, each of the plurality of rotating tined wheels having a leading face and a trailing face, said conversion kit comprising:

a positioning means for reorientating the rake arms, said positioning means comprising left and right booms, each comprising a first end and a second end, wherein each of said left and right

booms extends upwardly from the first end to an apex and then downwardly to the second end;

a first coupling means disposed on each said first end for attaching the positioning means to the frame;

a second coupling means disposed on each said second end for attaching the rake arms to the positioning means; and

wherein said positioning means ~~may be installed~~ is installable on said frame by said first coupling means and said rake arms ~~may be installed~~ are installable on said positioning means by said second coupling means such that each of the rotating tined wheels is supported from its trailing face and such that each of said booms passes over the rake arm attached to its second end when installed on said frame.

Claim 25 (original): The conversion kit of claim 24 further comprising a bracing means for stabilizing the positioning means.

Claims 26-27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (original): The conversion kit of claim 24 wherein the first coupling means comprises an extended portion on both the left and the right booms and a left and a right housing on the frame, said extended portions sliding into said housings.

Claim 29 (original): The conversion kit of claim 28 wherein the second coupling means comprises a housing on both the left and the right booms and an extended portion on both of the rake arms, the extended portion of the rake arms sliding into said housings.

Claim 30 (original): An apparatus for raking cut crops into windrows while being pulled through a field, said apparatus comprising:

a frame;

a left boom, said left boom having a first end and a second end, said first end coupled to said frame and said second end coupled to a left rake arm;

a right boom, said right boom having a first end and a second end, said first end coupled to said frame and said second end coupled to a right rake arm;

a plurality of rotating tined wheels disposed on said left and right rake arms, each of the plurality of rotating tined wheels having a leading face and a trailing face; and

wherein both the left and right booms extend from the frame over the respective left or right rake arm attached to their second ends such that each of the rotating tined wheels is supported from its trailing face.

Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of claim 30 wherein both the left and the right booms each further comprises a cantilevered arm attached to a brace member, said brace member being attached to said frame.

Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the brace member is selected from the group consisting of an elongated piece of metal, a rope, a nylon strap, a chain and a cable.

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus of claim 30 wherein both the left and the right booms each extend upwardly from the first end to an apex and then downwardly to the second end such that the left and the right booms pass over the rake arm attached to their second ends.

Claim 34 (original): The apparatus of claim 33 wherein both the left and the right booms are removably coupled to the frame and to their respective left or right rake arms.

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (original): The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the second ends of the left and right booms are free floating.

Claim 37 (original): A method for converting a hay rake, said hay rake comprising a frame, a pair of rake arms disposed on said frame, and a plurality of rotating tined wheels disposed on said rake arms, each of the plurality of rotating tined wheels having a leading face and a trailing face, said method comprising the steps of:

removing the pair of rake arms from said frame;

attaching a pair of booms to said frame in place of said pair of rake arms; and

reattaching each of the pair of rake arms to one of the booms such that each of the plurality of rotating tined wheels is supported from its trailing face.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of attaching a brace member to a cantilevered arm extending from each of the pair of booms and to the frame.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 38 wherein the brace member is selected from the group consisting of an elongated piece of metal, a rope, a nylon strap, a chain and a cable.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 38 wherein the step of attaching the pair of booms further comprises the step of

inserting an extended portion of each of the pair of booms into a housing on said frame.

Claim 41 (original): The method of claim 40 wherein the step of reattaching each of the pair of rake arms comprises the step of inserting an extended portion of each of the pair of rake arms into a boom housing disposed on one of the pair of booms.

Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of attaching a brace member to a cantilevered arm extending from each of the pair of booms and to the frame.